

**POETRY.**  
**MINISTERING SPIRITS.**

And take the waiting chair beside my  
own?  
Was he not with me as I watched

The New Year's coming, and the old  
year gone!  
Did he not read with me, "I will not  
leave  
You comfortless. I will give you  
peace."  
And then the hymn, and words of  
prayer for strength  
Whatever it came to try our faith  
at length.  
At times I feel alone as ne'er before  
So long we've walked together on life's  
shore;  
And then as I blessed thought, not far  
from me,  
He's waiting, though His face I do not

"My peace I give to you." Do you accept and prize This precious legacy? So much within it lies Of love, hope, comfort, all so freely given. Why do we only look for joy and peace in Heaven? The peace and joy is here, and ours today. We find it in our daily earthly way. No pain, nor poverty, nor earthly loss

—Margaret M. Mason.

**THE ICE STORM.**

The North Wind brought his jewels,  
And scattered them afar,  
Till every limb or branch and twig  
Reflected like a star.

And beautiful Miss Maple  
Took all the wealth that came,  
Until, too heavy laden,  
She hung her head for shame.

The North Wind was not partial,  
He gave alike to oak  
To hickory and chestnut,  
Until their branches broke.

And every bush and briar,  
— He robbed like royalty,

Till all the world was glistening  
 And beautiful to see.  
 The North Wind came revelling,  
 And danced with branches gay,  
 Till weary of the frolic,  
 They sank in sad array.  
 The next day came the South Wind,  
 And saw the jewels bright,  
 But angry with the North Wind,  
 She stole them all at night.  
 —Rhena Howe, Chaplain of Hospital  
 Juvenile Grange.

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**VIEWS AND VARIETIES.**

**Clever Sayings.**  
 "You say Grinder worked last summer just for fun?" Poh, no; just for funds."—Harvard Lampoon.  
 "My dear, I saw a perfectly lovely flat this morning." "All right," replied her husband. "When do we move?"—Detroit Free Press.

McTarian—This'll be the pest huswagie  
hairs, teased for eternity. Hiss My

"Turk-An" no' will her neither. The  
Barm-an' neither will her, too.  
—Illustrated Bits.

About this time the funny man,  
Whose sense of humor's big,  
Loads up his fountain pen and writes:  
"An Ode To Geddie Spring."  
—N. Y. Times.

My praise of Plato, as I found,  
Made Mrs. Nuwed talk.  
She said I ought to drop around  
And hear her hubby talk.  
—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"These leaves are getting finer," declared  
the first cave dweller. "That's  
right," chimed in the second cave  
dweller. "The third one don't let us  
keep ichthyosaurs, dinosaurs, subre-  
toothed tigers, or pterodactyls."

"Huck, Clerk—I found the 'Not to be disturbed' in case out of place, and those college boys stole out of the corridor. Manager—Where?" Clerk—"They nailed it up over the coal bin, Boston Transcript."

"Say, whose feet 'er you steppin' on?" growled the man in the crowded car. "Really, I don't know," replied the person addressed. "I've been trying to oblige even a stranger." Thereupon he stepped off—Philadelphia Ledger.

The Kentucky colonial was drinking a mint julep. Every time he raised the glass to his lips he shut his eyes, and he shut his eyes with the woman. "What's the matter?" she asked him. "Well, you see," the Kentucky colonial answered, "if I don't shut mah eyes, lookin' at the mint julep, I'll get drunk with watah, er, I'll press the taste of the drink."—N. Y. Press.

**MUCH IN LITTLE.**

The train which the kaiser uses on his travels was three years in building.

Nearly 45 per cent. of all the imports to China last year paid duty at Shanghai.

During the present year the entire railway system of Buda-Pesth will be electrified.

At the present rate of increase the population of this country in 1919 will be 100,000,000.

The largest pin factory in the world is at Birmingham, England. It turns

During the first ten months of 1908 the number of homestead entries re-

The result of the earthquake has been to double or triple prices of

Beginning with January 22, the Chinese New Year's day, a reduction of 20 per cent. was made in the rates for international telegrams; but, in spite of this reduction, which is considered to be substantial, the Chinese telegraph tolls remain the highest in the world.

also coming from China and Japan and the Pacific coast states in the north, and new markets will probably be found for certain classes of California products, such products as California wines shipped through the port of Manzanilla.